

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 427

To require the President and the Congress to adopt a "pay as you go" budget process.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 1983

Mr. MILLER of California (for himself and Mr. ANDREWS of Texas, Mr. ALBOSTA, Mr. BARNARD, Mr. BEDELL, Mr. BEVILL, Mrs. LLOYD, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Colorado, Mr. COELHO, Mr. COLEMAN of Texas, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ECKART, Mr. ERDREICH, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. GLICKMAN, Mr. GORE, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HERTEL of Michigan, Mr. HUGHES, Mr. KAZEN, Mr. KOGOVSEK, Mr. LEHMAN of Florida, Mr. LEVINE of California, Mr. LEEVITAS, Mr. LUNDINE, Mr. MACKEY, Mrs. MARTIN of Illinois, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MAVROULES, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. OLIN, Mr. PATMAN, Mr. PENNY, Mr. RATCHFORD, Mr. REID, Mrs. SCHROEDER, Mr. SEIBERLING, Mr. SIKORSKI, Mr. SINISKY, Mr. SLATTERY, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. STARK, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. SYNAR, Mr. TALLON, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VENTO, Mr. WEAVER, Mr. WHITEHURST, Mr. WHITLEY, and Mr. WISE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations

JOINT RESOLUTION

To require the President and the Congress to adopt a "pay as you go" budget process.

Whereas the Federal deficit in fiscal year 1983 approached \$200,000,000,000;

Whereas the current budget process relies largely on the deficit to finance additional spending decisions;

Whereas interest payments on the Federal debt in fiscal year 1983 exceeded \$128,800,000,000;

Whereas current budget procedures offer no means for preventing the accumulation of hundreds of billions of dollars in additional debt in coming years;

Whereas the Federal Government's heavy use of the deficit consumes a substantial portion of available credit, which diminishes the availability of capital for private investment and personal borrowing;

Whereas a freeze of all spending and revenues at current policy levels, according to the Congressional Budget Office, will result in the steady reduction of the deficit as a result of the normal growth of the economy;

Whereas new spending above current policy levels will not increase the deficit if offset entirely by simultaneous increases in revenues or spending reductions in other areas of the budget;

Whereas adoption of such a "pay as you go" budget process will treat all new spending identically;

Whereas the "pay as you go" budget process will require the President and the Congress to establish priorities for spending and to identify specific means of paying for new spending decisions; and

Whereas implementation of the "pay as you go" process will achieve the rapid reduction in Federal deficits, and will reduce the need for the Federal Government to consume credit which is needed to promote economic growth and jobs: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 That for fiscal year 1985 and for each year thereafter, the
2 President shall submit to the Congress, and the Congress
3 shall adopt, a "pay as you go" budget which freezes all rev-
4 enues and outlays, including entitlements, at current levels
5 (except that, in the case of entitlements, individuals who
6 meet eligibility standards shall not be denied participation);
7 and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That any future legislative reductions in rev-
9 enues be offset by equivalent reductions in outlays, and that
10 any spending above the outlay baseline (including cost of
11 living adjustments) shall be offset by equivalent increases in
12 revenues or reductions in outlays so that no spending in-
13 crease shall result in an increase in the deficit.

